

THE
CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOL. II.] Saturday, October 19, 1816. [No. 4.

*Extracts from the Report of the 22d General Meeting of
the (London) Missionary Society.*

(Continued from page 23.)

NORTH AMERICA AND THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. Spratt, who has resided some time at Quebec, has lately visited the United States to obtain pecuniary assistance for building a chapel. The Directors have informed him that if he continues at Quebec, as the pastor of the congregation, his support must be derived from them : but that they will gladly employ him as their Missionary, if he should be inclined to leave his present situation.

Mr. Cox was about to leave Johnstoun District, when he last wrote, and we are not exactly informed in what part of the country he is now labouring. He has been partly supported by the people, but has been assisted by donations from this Society.

From Mr. Smart, at Elizabeth Town, Upper Canada, we have not lately received any information.

At Trinidad Mr. Adam continues to labour as usual, and not without some good effect : but the Directors are sorry to say that this station is too expensive to be continued on the present plan. It has long appeared to them very desirable, not to say necessary, that one of the Directors should, if possible, visit our Missionary stations in the West Indies, as Mr. Campbell, with so much advantage, visited those in Africa, and for a similar purpose. They are of opinion that great improvement might be made by judicious regulations ; and that many of the Planters may, by personal application, be induced to engage for the support of pious mechanics as the instructors of their slaves ; and that not only the present stations might be rendered less burdensome to the Society, but that new stations might be found which should require little or no pecuniary support from England.

Mr. Wray was lately informed by the poor negroes in Demerary, that they are looking out for a minister in every ship that arrives.

The Directors are concerned to state that greatly as they

have desired to send a preacher to Le Resouvenir, formerly the promising station of Mr. Wray, they have not yet been able to meet with a person altogether suitable for it, but they are anxious to find such a one. They hoped that some of our brethren in the ministry would have been able to select out of their congregations some pious intelligent diligent men, such as are qualified to be useful in Sunday Schools, or in village preaching, who would gladly devote themselves to the instruction of the poor negroes ; a few such persons, may be very usefully employed in the West Indies.

Mr. Wray remains in the neighbouring colony of Berbice ; his school is on the increase, and a great number of poor free children, as well as of the slaves, learn to read ; many adults also come to read occasionally. Many girls belonging to the Crown estates learn to sew, under the care of Mrs. Wray. About a year ago he baptized eight persons, who have since conducted themselves as becomes Christians ; and at Christmas last he baptized eight more ; four had belonged to the school, the rest were old people. It was a very solemn season. On the 31st of December he administered the Lord's Supper for the first time in Berbice ; eleven negroes communicated. Mr. Wray rejoices to see a church, however small, formed among the negroes in Berbice.

Mr. Davies, at George Town, Demerary, is attended by a great number of negroes, many of whom discover, in the whole of their conduct, the powerful effects of the gospel. It is much to the honour of religion that among the negroes who have been punished for dishonest or refractory behaviour, there has not been an instance of one who attended the chapel. The moral conduct of the people is much improved ; Mr. Davies has lately married sixty couples of them, nearly half of whom came from about twenty miles up the river.

Mr. Elliot (formerly at Tobago) is at present at George Town, and preaches in a distant part of it, to many who, it is said, cannot conveniently attend at the chapel.

In addition to the support of those missions which have already been mentioned, and which are under the immediate patronage of this Society, sums have occasionally been voted to other Societies which have the same object in view. During the last year, the Directors have voted to the Church of the United Brethren, at Sarepta, the sum of £300, for the purpose of renewing their mission to the Kalmucks. Two Missionaries have thus been enabled to commence their labours among that people.

They have also granted £100, to the New-York Mission-

ary Society, to assist them in sending Missionaries to the Indians on the border of their territories.

They have likewise voted to the new Missionary Institution at Basle, in Switzerland, the sum of £200, to assist and encourage them in its establishment.

(To be continued.)

Copy of a Letter from the Rev. Samuel Newell, a Missionary in India, to Mr. Reuben Smith, of Ballston, dated Bombay, Dec. 8, 1815.

Your kind letter of the 19th of March reached me some time ago, and afforded me much pleasure. I should have answered it immediately, but as brother Hall was writing to Princeton about that time, I thought it might be as well to wait a little, as he probably communicated to your society all the information we had to communicate then. Before you get this you will probably know that I am at Bombay with brother Hall, and that brother Nott is on his way to America. I can now inform you that we are at length permanently established in Bombay by the authority or rather permission of the Court of Directors. This joyful information was communicated to us a few days ago by Sir E. Nepean, the governor of Bombay. We now hope for an addition to our number, especially since brother Nott has left us. There is every reason to hope and expect that two or three more of our brethren would be permitted to settle here and join us in the glorious work of preaching Christ to the Heathen. We need an addition to our present establishment very much. We have three great objects before us, the ministration of the word of life to a great multitude of people wholly given to idolatry; the instruction of the rising generation, by the establishment and superintendence of schools; and the translation and printing of the scriptures in the Mahratta language. We have made a beginning in these three departments of our work, but we feel that two men are insufficient to prosecute so arduous a task with facility and dispatch. The harvest is great indeed, and the labourers few.

With respect to Persia, concerning which you make some inquiries, the King of course is a Mahometan, but he seems to be very tolerant to Christians. I have written home a great deal concerning *Western Asia*, and you may probably see my communications on that subject before this reaches you; this must be my apology for not enlarging on that point here. You will perceive by the multitude of business we have on our hands, that we have not much leisure for writing. We shall endeavour however in our hasty way, to answer all the letters we receive from our friends. Believe me, dear sir, I was truly gratified with your letter, and I beg you will do me the favour to write again by the first convenient opportunity. Yours very affectionately, S. NEWELL.

Semi-annual Report of the Managers of the Female Charity School Society of Somerville, in the county of Somerset, state of New-Jersey, organized 25th March, 1816.

THE Managers of the Female Society of Somerville and its vicinity, for the instruction of the poor and people of colour, take the opportunity of the first semiannual meeting of the Society, to present a statement of their past proceedings, and of their prospects for the future : And this they would do, with sentiments of gratitude to the great Disposer of all events for a kind Providence that hath attended them, with a sense of dependence on his continued aid, to be of any future service.

Shortly after the meeting of the Society in March last, the Board of Managers met, and were organized, agreeably to the Constitution of the Society, and immediately proceeded to collect a Sabbath School for people of colour :---About fifty males and forty females, of all ages, were collected in different apartments in the Academy, and formed into classes. Teachers were appointed for each class, and a superintendent for each school. The males have been committed to the care and attention of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, whose benevolence prompted them to volunteer their services. The female department has been attended by one of the Managers as superintendent, and the young ladies, members of the Society, as teachers. The time of instruction has been, from nine o'clock on Sabbath morning until the ringing of the bell, when the schools have been adjourned to the church ; and the scholars directed to return from the place of worship to their homes. In the afternoon, some who were most solicitous to learn have been collected in different school-rooms, and their instruction prosecuted. The plan pursued has been, to devote a part of the time to religious instruction ; hearing them repeat their catechism, hymns and scripture lessons committed through the week ; and the remainder in teaching them to read. In both these branches of study, the proficiency they have generally made has exceeded expectation. About twenty have been taught to read, and a great part of them have learned the catechism and portions of scripture, comprising all the great fundamental truths which relate to their salvation. The Managers have uniformly endeavoured to impress them with a sense of the meaning and importance of these truths : and how far the Lord has been pleased to smile upon their humble endeavours, or what will be the ultimate fruit of their labours, is yet to be seen. The Managers cannot but indulge the most sanguine hopes, that the exertions of the Society for teaching to read the scriptures, and for conveying religious knowledge to many who have been living in sinful ignorance concerning the one thing needful, will be attended with the Divine blessing, and become the means of improving their moral habits, and leading at least some of them rightly to es-

imate the worth of their souls, and to seek the spiritual blessings of the Gospel.

The Managers are led to hope they have some pledge of such fruits to their labours, from the general attention, decorum of conduct, and desire to learn, which the blacks have evinced; and from the diminution of that opposition to the collection of the blacks on Sabbath morning, which some of the holders of slaves at first manifested. This last particular has sometimes given the Managers some alarm; but they think the opposition is subsiding, and cannot but persuade themselves that it will wholly cease, as the importance of religious knowledge comes to be better considered, and the benefit to the servants themselves becomes more manifest.

The Managers close this part of their report with expressing their warmest gratitude to those young ladies and gentlemen who have volunteered their services as teachers; and they sincerely hope they will not be weary in well-doing, but persevere in their benevolent exertions, and finally realize the promise, that "He that watereth others, his own soul also shall be watered."

The Managers have the most encouraging report to make with respect to the school for the instruction of poor children. From the last spring they have taken under their charge fifteen children, of parents unable to bear the expense of schooling. Each child has been provided with necessary articles of clothing, so as to make a decent appearance at church, and will receive a suit of clothes for the winter.

Their improvement has exceeded the most sanguine expectations. From the alphabet, they have been taught to read in four months; have committed to memory Brown's catechism, and a great number of hymns; and by their progress in learning and improvement in their habits and conduct, they do great credit to Mrs. Jennings, their teacher, whose attention and assiduity merit the applauses of the society. The Managers cannot refrain from expressing the strongest hopes, that these children will be rescued from the dangers incident to a state of ignorance, and become useful members of society; but they feel the necessity of the Divine blessing to follow their exertions and prayers; and then commend to the goodness of God these little objects of their care, beseeching him to quicken and cultivate the seed which has been sown in their tender minds, that it may bring much fruit to his glory and their good, for time and eternity.

The Managers desire to feel grateful to Him who "holdeth both the hearts and the hands of the children of men," that they have not experienced any want of funds to defray the expenses of the institution.

By the Treasurer's account, it appears that the disbursements for the School since April last, including the salary of the Tutores, amount to 58 dls. 23 cts; and cash received for entrance-money of members and donations, amounts to 177 dls. 30 cts; leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of 119 dls. 7 cts.

SARAH VREDENBURGH, *Directress.*

FROM THE RELIGIOUS REMEMBRANCER.

*A Pastoral Letter of the Synod of Philadelphia, to the
Presbyteries and Churches under their care.*

CHRISTIAN BRETHREN,

THE Synod, assembled in Lancaster at the present time, consists of a greater number of members than have been convened at any meeting for many years; and from their free conversation on the state of religion, it appears, that all the Presbyteries are more than commonly alive to the importance of contending earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints; and of resisting the introduction of Arian, Socinian, Arminian, and Hopkinsian heresies, which are some of the means by which the enemy of souls would, if possible, deceive the very elect.

The Synod desire to cherish a stronger regard for the truth as it is in Jesus than they find at present subsisting among themselves; and because they are not ignorant of the disposition of many good men to cry "Peace," where there should be no peace, and, "there is no danger," in cases in which God commands us to avoid the appearance of evil; they would affectionately exhort each Presbytery under their care, to be strict in the examination of candidates for licensure or ordination, upon the subject of those delusions of the present age, which seem to be a combination of most of the innovations made upon Christian doctrine in former times.

May the time never come, in which our ecclesiastical courts shall determine, that Hopkinsianism and the doctrines of our Confession of Faith are the same thing; or that men are less exposed now, than in the days of the apostles, to the danger of perverting the right ways of the Lord.

The Synod would exhort particularly all the elders of the Churches to beware of those, who have made such pretended discoveries in Christian theology as require an abandonment of the "form of sound words," contained in our excellent Confession and the Holy Scriptures.

In some portions of our Synodical bounds exertions have been made, but with little effect, to propagate the doctrine of universal salvation. We rejoice that the shafts of satan should fall ineffectual from the shield of Jesus; and we desire all persons under our care to present this shield, by maintaining and diffusing assiduously the sentiments of the Word of God, in opposition to every damning error.

Many of our congregations, when their members were few in number, erected large places of worship, with a design to accommodate their posterity. These have, generally speaking, become full; and although many persons remove from us to the southern and western parts of our country, yet new tabernacles for the God of Jacob have been found necessary. Nine new Churches have been formed within a few years, which are in a flourishing condition; some, which were ready to die, have been revived; and in most of our assemblies a more general, constant, and so-

lemn attendance has been given of late than formerly ; but, alas ! the increase of Churches bears no proportion to the increase of population.

Three or four of our Churches have experienced what is commonly called a revival of religion ; and to them accessions of communicants have been numerous : but in many other congregations a gradual but almost constant multiplication of the professed friends of Zion reminds us, that if the thunder-storm in Summer excites the most attention, it is the continued blessing from the clouds which replenishes the springs, and makes glad the harvest of the husbandman. For the many, who are united in a short time ; and for the many, who are gradually gathered to Christ, not by *the great and strong wind* that rends the mountains, nor by *the earthquake*, but by the *still small voice*, which cometh not with observation, we would give our Redeemer thanks ; and desire the Churches to bless him, no less for the daily dew, than the latter, and the early rain.

The Synod mourn that family religion is utterly neglected by many professors of piety within our bounds, and conjure the Ministers to enforce, with redoubled zeal and fidelity, the duty of family prayer on all, and especially on those who make application for admission to the Lord's Supper.

It is with deep regret too we have ascertained, that only a few of our vacant congregations assemble, when destitute of a ministerial supply, for public worship on the Lord's day. We would unite our voice with that of the General Assembly on this subject, in recommending to the elders of such Churches, to convene the people of their charge regularly on the Sabbath, for the purpose of hearing some approved sermon, and of uniting in social prayer. Let the elders lead in the devotional exercises of God's house, and invite some one to read a discourse which they may have selected, until some labourer *in word and doctrine* shall be sent to them, by the Great Head of the Church ; for in so doing they shall be comforted, the Church edified, and the Redeemer honoured.

In general, the young people under our care receive regular catechetical instruction ; and in many congregations Sabbath Associations have been formed for the instruction of the children of the poor, and of people of colour. In several parts of the States of Maryland and Delaware the slaves have of late received more attention than formerly ; and in some few places a large number of them have been admitted to the privileges of the Redeemer's kingdom. May they all become the Lord's freemen !

The Synod have been peculiarly happy to learn, that a more friendly intercourse, and a more intimate union, than have distinguished former times, have of late subsisted between the members of our own body, and the Associate Reformed, the Reformed Presbyterian, and the Reformed Dutch Churches ; which we hail as an omen of the approach of that blessed day, in which all who

maintain in their purity the same doctrines of grace and system of government, shall be one, and their name one.

In some places, the vices of drunkenness, profaneness, and Sabbath-breaking have increased to an alarming degree, especially through the influence of *fairs*; but in other places, they are much less prevalent than they were. We need not exhort our ministers to preach against all unrighteousness, but were they more pointed, and affectionate in their reproofs, they might hope for more success.

We know of but one antitrinitarian synagogue in all our borders; and that there may never be another, we pray you, brethren, repeatedly to declare the truth, that the only true God in existence, is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; the God who is in Christ Jesus, reconciling the world to himself.

Another favourable circumstance which we state is, that in some of our congregations in which party politics have produced formerly great warmth, the question is now asked, concerning a candidate for civil office, "Is he a Christian?" and persons nominated have been neglected because they were known to be unfriendly to Christianity. We beseech you, brethren, whatever your political sentiments may be, to elect men fearing God, and hating iniquity, to be your rulers.

The Synod feel it to be incumbent on them to exhibit the destitute state of the counties of Bedford and Cambria in the State of Pennsylvania, and of Allegany in Maryland; with a firm persuasion that a simple statement of facts must excite the attention and prayer of the Christian community. The County of Bedford is about forty miles square, and probably contains with the other two counties which have been named, not less than 40,000 inhabitants. Among all these, there are at present but two Churches, and only one settled Presbyterian Minister. In the town of Bedford, which is the resort of the gay world in Summer, and which is large and respectable, the Lord's Supper was administered once, for the first time, about thirty years ago, and never again until 1809, or near that time: but we believe that only a few of these 40,000 inhabitants, of our Christian Country, ever witnessed the administration of that holy ordinance. Many of the families of these counties are wealthy, and desirous of enjoying the ministry of reconciliation; but in general, pastors cannot be supported without some assistance from more populous sections of the Church, or from the Board of Missions. We recommend that all the communicants in our Churches bear these destitute fellow-citizens on their hearts before the throne of grace, that God in his providence may cause the light of his truth to shine on them, and the ordinances of salvation to abide with them, unto eternal life.

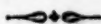
Should we, Christian Brethren, who have a goodly heritage, sympathize with these destitute people as we ought, we might expect that stated preachers would soon be supported among them, at least in part, until they might be able to maintain pastors for themselves.

We know that calls upon your liberality are numerous, and that much territory yet remains to be occupied in the name of the Lord; but be not weary of well-doing. We can never do too much for the promotion of the welfare of Zion. May our heads, our hands, our hearts be devoted to him, who loved us, and gave himself a Ransom for us; that great may be our joy, and His glory, for ever. AMEN.

Signed by order of the Synod,

JAMES SNODGRASS, *Moderator.*

Lancaster, Sept. 20, 1816.



FROM THE RELIGIOUS REMEMBRANCER.

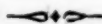
MR. SCOTT,

ON the evening of the 30th of September last, I attended the examination of the students of *Augustine Hall*. This name, I presume, was derived from Saint Augustine, the bishop of Hippo, who was born at Tagaste in Africa. The Principal of this institution is the Rev. Nath'l R. Snowden of the Presbyterian Church. The pupils, all lads of colour, are at present eight in number; and are received indiscriminately from the African Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Methodist Church. The Rev. J. Gloucester, the Rev. A. Jones, and the Rev. R. Allen, three clergymen of colour, are the principal supporters of the Hall. The classes have been organized but a few months; and I can assure you that they have made unusual progress, for the time, in English Grammar, Geography, and the Latin language. They read with fluency, repeated the principal parts of Grammar, construed and even constructed the first chapter of Corderius; and before a large audience, consisting of some of the distinguished clergymen and lawyers, and other gentlemen of the city, besides the coloured friends of the pupils, delivered with energy and ease several orations. I am confident that an equal number of boys, of their age, could not be taken by lot from any grammar school in the city, that would excel them in declamation.

Perhaps, among the wonderful events of the present age, this may be the commencement of a new era for the African race; and from this Hall may spring men of learning and piety, who shall contribute to the diffusion of that knowledge and virtue which are essential to the universal emancipation of their race from Egyptian bondage.

F. R. S.

Philadelphia, October 7, 1816.



JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

A Letter from Mrs. D— to a Committee of the Evangelical Society, (of Philada.) respecting the religious experience and dying moments of her Daughter, Harriot D—.

DEAR SIRS,—I feel myself under an obligation to give you an account of some interesting particulars in the life and death of my eldest daughter. There was nothing in the former part of her life worthy of notice in this letter, and as I conceive her first im-

pressions were made in that branch of the Evangelical Society with which you are connected, it will doubtless be pleasing to you, as well as the members generally, to be informed of this instance in which the Lord has plainly shown that their labours are not in vain, and knowing that the work of the Lord has thus prospered in their hands, you will all be encouraged to go on in the good work, and may the Lord strengthen you and animate your zeal.

The first impression I saw on her of a serious nature, was a short time after the death of Miss Ross. This child died a few months before, a hopeful subject of Divine Grace, having received her first impressions in the same Society. Her death being somewhat remarkable, an opportunity was taken by one of the members of the Society to improve this afflictive dispensation to the hearers at the ensuing meeting. For this purpose, a sermon was read on the necessity of being prepared for death, on this text, "Be ye also ready." My daughter was present, and I trust for good: for when she came home in the evening, I asked her what sort of a meeting they had? She said, "Oh, mother, I never was at such a meeting before," and wept bitterly. I asked her what the text was? She told me, "*Be ye also ready*," and left the room.

A few Sabbath evenings after, she came home from the Society in a flood of tears. I inquired the cause; she seemed backward to tell me. I urged her very much to let me know, but she wept the more, and exclaimed, "Oh, mother, I am such a sinner, what shall I do to be saved? My heart is so hard, that when I try to pray, I cannot;" and then returned to her chamber and wept a long time. It was observed by some of the family, that something was the matter with her. She appeared more attentive to meeting than she was before. She took great delight in the Bible and Hymn Book, and committed equally as much to memory as her dear little sister, excepting the Pilgrim's Progress. At one time in particular, I found her reading the third chapter of John: I asked her if she was committing it to memory, which she did in a few days after. Dr. Holcomb, sometime after this, calling to see my family, I observed to him the desire my daughter had to have that chapter explained. My two little daughters sat down by him, and he explained some part of it to them. After he was gone, my eldest daughter said, "Oh, mother, I could have sat and heard him all day." A little while after, while her sister was lying on her bed very ill, and rejoicing in the prospect of death, she caught her in her arms, in the presence of all in the room, and exclaimed, "What would I give, if I was as willing to die as my sister!" and wept bitterly. Some time after this, she came down stairs and said, "Mother, I have found the most beautiful Psalm I ever read: I wonder that I never saw it before. It was the 51st Psalm:

"Shew pity Lord, Oh Lord forgive,
Let a repenting sinner live:
Are not thy mercies large and free,
May not a sinner trust in thee?"

and repeated the Psalm with much feeling. I then referred her to the 51st Psalm in the Bible, which seemed precious to her, for she committed it to memory, and repeated it the next Sabbath evening at the Society which she delighted in. Some time after this, some of her companions solicited her to go to a ball, which she refused; and a pious lady being with her, she said, "Aunt, don't you think it wicked to go to balls or plays?" Her aunt replied, I think it is. What do you think? She said, "I think they are very wicked, and I have made a solemn promise this day, that my feet should never go to such a place." This happened about two months before her death. After this she appeared more anxious about going to meeting than I have ever seen her before; and since her death I call to mind the delight she used to take in singing the following lines:

"The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets.
Then let our songs abound,
And every tear be dry;
We're marching thro' Emmanuel's ground,
To fairer worlds on high."

About the first of August, 1813, she was taken with a fever which proved fatal to her. Her little sister was sick at the time she was first taken, and expired one week before her. Lying both in the same room, they had opportunity of conversing with each other. At one time I had occasion to leave the room for a short time, and when I returned I found the eldest daughter in tears. I asked her what was the matter? Her reply was, "My dear little sister Mary has been telling me what joy she felt in her heart in the prospect of dying: Oh, mother, I would give a thousand worlds if I could say as my sister does!" and after this appeared to be much dejected. The morning her sister died she said to me, "Mother, Mary is gone! she is gone to rest---she is better off---it is well she is gone instead of me." I asked her why she thought so? Her answer was, "Perhaps Mary was better prepared than I am." I then told her that life was very uncertain, and we all ought to be prepared as well as Mary. I asked her if she thought about dying? "Oh, mother! I think a great deal about it. I am a great sinner indeed." I said to her, do you know that Christ died for sinners? She answered, "I do not know that Christ died for me." I was then so affected I could say no more to her. She frequently exclaimed, "What a world! what a sinful world! what sinners we are! what shall I do to be saved?" A lady standing by her said, I can say to you

as Paul said to the gaoler, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

The morning before she died, her father, standing by her bedside, asked her, if he should go to prayer with her? To which she answered, "Oh! yes." While he was engaged in prayer for her, she put her hands on his, with all the affection possible; and when he had finished, she said "Amen, amen, what a good prayer papa did make." In the course of the day she said, "Mother, I have been thinking all the week that Mary has told the Lord to send for me." I said, if it should be the Lord's will to send for you to take you to himself, would you be willing to go? Her reply was, "Oh, yes, that I would!" She said but little more, and went off very easy in the *thirteenth* year of her age.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETIES.

The committee appointed at a meeting of a number of the inhabitants of *Boston* and its vicinity, 3d Sept. 1816, to "consider the best means of promoting the objects of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, in this section of our country," respectfully submit the following REPORT:---

The cordial approbation which was unanimously expressed at a former meeting, of the plan and institution of the great *National Society*, recently formed for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures; precludes the necessity of expatiating on the importance and utility of such an association. The new zeal and vigour, with which it may be expected to animate the efforts of the friends of the Bible on both continents; the simplicity, uniformity, and consistency, which it seems adapted to give to the measures, employed for translating the Word of God into the various languages, and sending it to all regions, of the earth; the strong bond of fraternal union, which it may be hoped to prove, among the professors of Christianity of all denominations, in different portions of our extensive country; these, with many similar considerations, inspire the hope and the belief, that effects, as vast as beneficial, will flow from this establishment. Your committee cannot, therefore, omit, however superfluous it may seem, to congratulate their associates, and the religious public, upon this commencement, on our side of the Atlantic, of that mode of operation, in accomplishing the great work of piety and philanthropy, which has on the other, by the blessings of Heaven, proved so successful. They even venture to anticipate that the 11th of May, 1816, the day of organizing this *American Society*, will form an era, in the annals of Christian history, second only to the 7th of March, 1804, when was founded, "THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY." While the generous purpose is cherished, of co-operating with the illustrious precursor in this walk of heavenly charity; it may be allowed to feel some peculiar satisfaction from the fact, that by the unexampled munificence of its venerable President, and other liberal benefactors, the funds of the American Society, have within

two months after its formation, risen to an amount nearly equal to those of the parent institution within a year from its commencement.

Our fellow Christians, in this town and commonwealth, have never been reluctant to contribute their aid to all pious and benevolent designs. In reference to the translating and extending the sacred Scriptures, they have made commendable exertions and benefactions. Many have secured imperishable honour by the promptitude and extent of their donations to the Massachusetts Bible Society, and other local associations which are designed principally for the supply of particular districts among ourselves. But the enlarged projects contemplated by the American Society, embracing not merely this western quarter, but the whole of the habitable globe, demand and merit new and large contributions. It is therefore judged to be reasonable, nor is any doubt entertained that it will prove productive, again to appeal to the liberality which has ever characterized the inhabitants of this metropolis and state. Considerable time has elapsed since any great and combined efforts have been here made, in reference to this general object; and it is regarded to be seasonable, to urge on public notice and patronage, this most interesting and important cause.

The more reflection is bestowed on the plan of disseminating the Holy Oracles, the deeper is the conviction that an imperious obligation devolves on every one whom Providence has blessed with the means, to contribute all in his power to the accomplishment of so glorious a design. Surely every heart that is duly affected with a sense of the transcendent value of revealed truth, must devoutly glow at the transporting prospect of sending is "glad tidings of great joy to all people." The sincere followers of the blessed Saviour, who laid down his life for men, will not, cannot refuse to devote largely from the abundance, and proportionably from the competence, with which their worldly enterprises have been crowned, towards the universal promulgation of that Gospel which "brings life and immortality to light," in those regions where heathen darkness prevails, and where our fellow mortals know not God, and are without hope of Heaven. They who have "freely received" of the means of salvation, may best prove their grateful sense of their distinguished privileges, by imparting this treasure to others, by praying and striving that the whole human family may receive the message of truth, which proclaims peace on earth and good will to men; which serves not only to meliorate the condition of this transitory state, but to secure the happiness of eternity.

As to the methods most expedient and effectual for promoting these objects, for which the American Bible Society has been instituted, none appear to your committee more obviously adapted, than the raising of the funds, and placing them at the disposal of the managers of the said National Society. The best preparatory

means of interesting the community in this cause, and the manner in which benefactions may be obtained with most facility, and to the greatest extent, have occupied their deliberate attention. The result of the consideration, which they have been able to give, is contained in the annexed resolutions, which they recommend for the adoption of their brethren.

1. *Resolved*, That as a primary object is to diffuse, as extensively as may be, information among our fellow Christians of all denominations respecting the objects of the American Bible Society, the Reverend Clergy of Boston and its vicinity be requested to address their respective congregations in its behalf, on the afternoon of the third Sabbath in October current; and also that they be desired to use all the influence which they may judge suitable, in order to interest the affluent and distinguished members of their several societies, as well as their acquaintance generally, in furthering the subscriptions and other efforts contemplated in the next resolution.

2. *Resolved*, That subscription papers be prepared for general circulation in the town and neighbourhood: and that the committees of the several religious societies be solicited to procure benefactions to this great national object, either by recommending and superintending contributions, or the formation of Bible Associations, the members of which may agree to pay a small sum weekly, after the method pursued with prodigious effect in other countries: or any other measures, which they may deem advisable or beneficial. And further resolved, that committees be appointed, in the several wards of this town, to particularly endeavour to obtain subscriptions within the same, and adopt such other measures as they shall judge best adapted to promote the great object.

3. *Resolved*, That a general meeting of all who feel interested in this great concern, be publicly notified, to be holden on the 17th inst. at 3 o'clock P. M. in order to such further measures as may be considered beneficial for securing the most efficient support to the American Bible Society; and that application be made to the proper authority for leave to hold such meeting in the Representatives' Chamber, in the State-House.

By the unanimous wish of the Committee,

ARTEMAS WARD, *Chairman*.

Boston, October 3, 1816.

After the acceptance of this report, the following resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That it appears to this meeting, that Bible Societies, which have become, or may hereafter become, auxiliary to the National Institution, afford important and peculiar facilities for raising and transmitting funds to that institution; and it is respectfully recommended to all who solicit patronage for this great object, to make the several auxiliaries in their vicinities the chan-

nels of their communication with the American Bible Society, and to urge the importance of obtaining annual subscribers to such auxiliary societies.

Resolved, That whereas the Massachusetts Bible Society has recently become auxiliary to the American Bible Society, it is recommended to the citizens of Boston, who are disposed to favour the NATIONAL INSTITUTION to transmit their benefactions through the treasury of the Massachusetts Bible Society, and to become annual subscribers to the last named institution.

On motion, voted unanimously, that the Hon. Mr. Ward, Peter O. Thacher, and Jonathan Phillips, Esqrs. be a Committee to unite with the Committee chosen at the late meeting of the Massachusetts Bible Society, to take means for promoting the interest of the American Bible Society, (which committee is composed of Rev. William E. Channing, His Honor Wm. Phillips, Rev. Charles Lowell, Henry Gray, John Tappan, John Grew and Jeremiah Evarts, Esqrs.) if said Committee shall be disposed so to unite, in a respectful application to the several Clergymen to comply with the request contained in the first resolution.

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Extract of a letter from the President of the Connecticut Reserve Bible Society, dated

TALLMADGE, September 11th, 1816.

DEAR SIR—Some time since there was handed to me a copy of the constitution of a general Bible Society proposed for the state of Ohio, signed by delegates from the Ohio, Scioto, and Cincinnati Miami Bible Societies, and accompanied with a request to submit it to the consideration of our Society for adoption. This request has been complied with. We should consider it a very pleasing event to be more intimately connected with the several Societies in this state. Our object is ONE, and, I trust, our hearts are all united in Christian love. Nothing could divert our minds from so interesting a design, but a similar proposal of a more extensive nature. When the business came before our Society, it was unanimously determined, that the American Bible Society embraced objects of the highest importance, and which so far coincide with those of the proposed Society as to supersede the adoption of its constitution. They, therefore, passed the following Resolution, which I wish you to publish in the Weekly Recorder.

“ At a meeting of the Connecticut Reserve Bible Society, held at Warren, June 11th, 1816 :

“ On motion, *Resolved*, that all the funds of this Society, after supplying our own district with Bibles, be placed at the disposal of the American Bible Society.

Attest,

JOHN SEWARD, Secretary.”

May not some of the specific objects of a State Society still be answered by frequently corresponding? A very important one, it appears to me, will be obtained by acquiring a more accurate

knowledge of the families and individuals in the state that are destitute of the Scriptures. Is it a fact, that there are ten thousand families in the state of Ohio, which are destitute of the Bible? Let us search every corner of the state, and never cease our labours until every destitute family is found out. Let us never remit our exertions until every destitute individual is supplied with that precious book. A necessary mean to accomplish this will be the formation of Bible Societies to embrace, if possible, every portion of the state. We should be gratified in receiving information respecting the extent of the Scioto Bible Society, and the number of destitute families within your knowledge, and would cheerfully co-operate with the other Bible Societies in the state, in measures calculated to advance the good cause in which, I trust, we are all heartily engaged. The members of our Society (with a few exceptions) reside within the Connecticut Reserve; and we judge that the families within our limits are tolerably well supplied with the holy Scriptures. With much esteem and respect, I am, sir, your sincere friend,

ELIZUR WRIGHT.

Rev. John Andrews.

Extract of a letter from Milton, Albemarle county, Virginia, dated 5th October, 1816.

We have just succeeded in forming a Bible Society in this county and Orange, which is to be *Auxiliary to the American Bible Society*; the officers have been appointed; you will shortly, I expect, see its Constitution. It is the first effort of the kind that we have made, and God has caused his own work to prosper in our hands. There is a good deal of wealth in the two counties; much good can be done, and though many who have "large possessions" have not experienced the rejoicing which an abiding faith in the Saviour of sinners produces; yet, God can, and has made use of them as instruments in his hands to "work his own praise."

FROM THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

The subscribers, having been appointed by a number of gentlemen from different parts of the county of New-Haven, a committee to determine upon a convenient time for a meeting of the citizens of this county, for the purpose of forming a Society, auxiliary to the National Bible Society, give notice, that said meeting will be held on the 16th of the ensuing October, in the state house at New-Haven, at 7 o'clock in the evening.

TIMOTHY DWIGHT,
SIMEON BALDWIN,
DAVID DAGGETT,
NATH'L W. TAYLOR.